Member.—That is with reference to Malayalam education.

Dewan.—When the general literacy is so high, I do not see why the community should be so backward in point of higher education. In regard to the economic condition of your community, it is difficult for me to say anything without a detailed examination. Although my reply may be disappointing to you, I must say that no special concessions are called for in the case of your community.

125. Need for giving greater facilities for the education of Pulayas.

Mr. Aiyan Kali (Member, Nominated) pointed out that, although the grant of half-fee concession was helpful to members of other communities in receiving the benefit of higher education, the case was not so in regard to Pulayas. The latter, being extremely poor, were unable to avail themselves of the blessing conferred upon them by Government and the result was that not a single pupil of the community had been able to study up to the English School Leaving Certificate Examination. The Pulayas of this country now numbered about three lakhs, but the number of those who attended schools was only 12,381, and of this, the number attending classes above the 5th was only 136. About six or seven pupils of the community attempted to study and pass the English School Leaving Certificate Examination; but their extreme poverty prevented them from completing the necessary school course. Most of the Pulaya boys were unable to procure their noon-day meal and their case was really pitiable. The Member, therefore, prayed that full fee concession be granted to the Pulaya pupils, that arrangements be made to give them noon-day meal at Government expense, and that education be made compulsory among the members of the community. He also presented a separate memorial on behalf of his community.

Dewan's reply.—The memorial submitted by you will be separately examined.

As regards education, the question of granting further facilities to the depressed classes in the matter of education is under consideration and whatever is found feasible will be done.

126. Need for two Central Boarding institutions for the boys and girls of the Cheramar community.

Mr. N. J. Joseph (Member, Nominated) referred to the Cheramar Sangham established for promoting the educational, social and economic advancement of the community irrespective of the religious faith of its members. He then dwelt upon the historical importance of the community and deplored its educationally backward condition. It was, he said, necessary that Government should take up the work of educating the Cheramars, and, as a preliminary step to this, the Member prayed that two boarding institutions, one for boys and the other for girls, each providing free accommodation and boarding for 250 students, be established in Trivandrum for the exclusive use of the community with provision for instruction in practical agriculture to the boys and domestic science to the girls. Lastly, the Member prayed that, besides the establishment of the two boarding houses mentioned above, arrangements might be made for giving free secondary and collegiate education to such of the boys and girls of those institutions as possessed special aptitude and intelligence for higher studies.

Dewans' reply—You say that the strength of your community is 4,00,000, while the figure as per the recent census is 26.

Member.—The figure is wrong. Our Secretary will give the correct figure. We were classed as Indian Christians at the census.

Dewan.—If you had called yourselves Cheramars, I do not see why the Census Officers should class you as Indian Christians.

Member.—The name 'Cheramar' was adopted only after the census. I request that my representation may be consi lered.

Dewan.—I shall consider it.

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